

The Range Rider



A TRIBUTE TO THE AMERICAN LIVESTOCKMAN

He went West with America--and he built that West. . . He enriches all States with his herds and flocks and droves. . . His sharp eyes know meat on the hoof, know weather and know real men. . . He knows the land, and he loves it. . .

He builds America with food, he feeds hundreds of millions on the meat they love. . . He raises and feeds and makes possible the centerpiece of the breakfast, the lunch, and the dinner table for fathers, mothers, and children.

He has studied years to make beef more tender, sweeter to eat; to make lamb melt in our mouths; to put more savor and flavor in pork. . .

He's up at night, like a doctor, when his stock ails. . . He'll trek miles through snow and blizzard to rescue a snowbound flock or herd--and he may go out at three o'clock in the morning with his lantern to see if the new pigs are comfortable.

His opinion is worth hearing. His word is as good as his bond.

In his home on the range, his chuck wagon in the hills, or his big red barn he calls no man boss. His chores are many, but his time is his own.

When he thinks he's right, he'll stick to his guns till the cows come home--when he's wrong he admits it. . . When he shakes your hand he means it. . . When he says he will--he will. . . When he says he won't--he won't.

He's the American Stockman.

When better cattle and sheep and swine are raised he'll raise them.

When better men are built, you'll find them on the farms and ranges of our country--guiding, watching, and caring for their flocks and droves and herds. (Tribute of the American Meat Institute, reprinted from The Wyoming Wool Grower of October 2, 1940.)

NEVADA CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE INTERIOR DEPARTMENT MUSEUM

Director Rutledge is the proud recipient of several historical relics found on the Federal range near camp G-124, Fallon, Nevada by Mark Harris, Engineer.

To many of us these relics would have looked like just a couple of blocks of old wood with rusty nails through them and an odd-shaped hook on one end -- but to Mark Harris they told an interesting story.

The wooden blocks are original insulators used on the first telegraph line built across the United States. This line was completed October 20, 1861--79 years ago! The nails used to fasten the insulators to the telegraph poles were hand-wrought, square nails.

These relics, together with several pieces of the original telegraph wire and an old ox shoe picked up by Mr. Harris on the Pony Express Trail, have been turned over to the Curator of the Interior Department Museum where they will be given a place of honor in the exhibit depicting the development of the West.

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A GLANCE AT THE ANNUAL REPORT

..... reveals the following man-size jobs in range conservation completed by Grazing Service CCC camps in the fiscal year 1940:

	<u>Accomplishments</u> <u>Fiscal Year 1940</u>	<u>Total</u> <u>To Date</u> (1935 thru 1940)
Springs	219	603
Reservoirs	76	269
Wells	35	183
Fences	1,261 miles	3,416
Cattle Guards	132	392
Corrals	48	274
Bridges	55	241
Truck Trails	1,760 miles	6,986
Stock Trails	190 miles	2,148
Check Dams	859	53,745
Water Control Structures	5	277
Dams	166	867
Diversion Ditches	98,935 lin.ft.	499,031
Water Spreaders	51,094 lin.ft.	106,218
Conduits	52,476 lin.ft.	234,124
Riprap	11,950 sq.yd.	317,415
Gully Planting	320 sq.yd.	6,800
Channel Construction	300 lin.ft.	12,041
Channel Cleaning	35,560 sq.yd.	47,245
Rodent Control	1,904,510 acres	9,856,608
Insect Pest Control	27,821 acres	135,984
Revegetation	148,026 acres	180,015
Fire Fighting	37,702 man-days	72,485

OFFICE OF LAND UTILIZATION ESTABLISHED IN DEPARTMENT

Establishment of an Office of Land Utilization to administer soil and moisture conservation activities transferred to the Department of the Interior from the Department of Agriculture under the President's Reorganization Plan No. IV has been announced.

Mr. Lee Muck, formerly Director of Forests for the Department of the Interior, was designated by Secretary Ickes as Assistant to the Secretary in Charge of Land Utilization to be in charge of the soil conservation program which will be carried out on the public lands under the jurisdiction of the Interior Department.

Some 447 persons engaged in soil conservation work in the Department of Agriculture were transferred to the new Interior Department unit. All but 28 of these employees are being assigned to field duties, the remainder being retained in Washington. A certain percent of these transferees have been assigned to the Grazing Service.

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DO YOU KNOW

....That Columbus brought the first cows to America in 1493, on his second voyage?

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MORE CERTIFICATES OF PROFICIENCY ISSUED TO

Paul Ciuksza, G-123, New Mexico, for proficiency in blacksmith and wood work
Donald L. Conway, G-130, Oregon, for proficiency as technical service clerk
Roy Denner, G-130, Oregon, for proficiency in the operation of Diesel
caterpillar tractor

Robert H. Ewing, G-123, New Mexico, for proficiency as warehouse clerk
Steve Haklo, G-123, New Mexico, for proficiency as truck and tractor
operator

Ross A. Jones, G-123, New Mexico, for proficiency in clerical work
John J. Kasich, G-123, New Mexico, for proficiency in clerical work
Mike Kupetz, G-123, New Mexico, for proficiency in fence construction,
erosion work, and rodent control work

Dewey Edward Lewis, G-147, New Mexico, for proficiency as chainman and
rodman

John J. Miazgowicz, G-123, New Mexico, for proficiency as mechanic's helper
Abraham Jackson Morrow, G-147, New Mexico, for proficiency as truck driver
Paul Nelms, G-147, New Mexico, for proficiency as truck driver and leader
Joseph Rominski, G-123, New Mexico, for proficiency as crew leader
Melvin L. Taylor, G-147, New Mexico, for proficiency in road construction
and in handling men

Garvis Wayne Tubbs, G-147, New Mexico, for proficiency as truck driver
James Waters, G-123, New Mexico, for proficiency as shop helper and in
cement work.

WHAT'S IN A NAMEMeeker Grazing District, Colorado (No. 1)

The Meeker Grazing District, formerly known as Colorado Grazing District No. 1, was one of the first grazing districts set up under the Taylor Grazing Act.

Approximately one half of the district lies within the watersheds of White River and its tributaries. The district office is located in the town of Meeker which is one of the largest "inland" towns in the United States, being 43 miles from the nearest railroad.

The name "Meeker" is reminiscent of one of the thrilling episodes of western pioneer days. Years ago the White River country was the favorite hunting ground for the Ute Indians. Shortly after the Civil War the Government established an Indian agency near the present location of the town of Meeker. In 1878 Nathaniel Meeker was chosen as the Indian Agent and with the best of intentions he immediately set to work to try and change the Utes from indolent, care-free sportsmen who spent their time hunting and horse racing into industrious, God-fearing farmers. As far as the Utes were concerned, this plan did not meet with any approval. They had their own ideas as to how a self-respecting Indian should spend his time and could see no reason for changing their mode of living. When the agent persisted in his efforts to change them, they became sullen and openly angry.

Late in the summer of 1879 Mr. Meeker made a request for troops to reenforce his small garrison and, ignoring the advice and pleas of his friends, proceeded to plow up the Indian's race track. This action was about as sensible as trying to stir up a hornet's nest bare handed. The Utes swarmed in from all directions and, under the leadership of the more pugnacious chieftains, a large force ambushed the party of soldiers on their way to serve as reenforcements. The balance of the warriors attacked and burned the agency, killing all of the men and taking captive the women and children. These captives were released 21 days later upon the order of Chief Ouray after his squaw, Chipeta, had made a plea in their behalf.

The agency was never rebuilt but a garrison of soldiers was maintained for a number of years on the location of the present town, which, in commemoration of the misguided Indian Agent, was named Meeker.

(Contributed by Jr. Grazier Aide Evert L. Brown, Colorado)

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GRAZING ARTICLE WINS AWARD

The feature story entitled "New Grazing for Old Ranges," which appeared in The Oregon Journal magazine section a year ago, and which concerned the work on the Squaw Butte range station, won the honor of being judged the third best feature article in the country on agricultural subjects at the Annual National Convention of the American Association of Agricultural College Editors this summer.